

As a flight attendant, I have overheard cellphone conversations during boarding/arrival phases of flight that sizzle the ears of hapless bystanders (or sitters, as the case may be.) People always seem to talk louder on cellphones, as I've heard conversations about childbirth, divorce, personal finances, eviction of tenants, verbal sexual foreplay, etc. People seem to be oblivious to others' right to silence. Soon, passengers may have the pleasure of hearing a cellphone used on one side of them talking about the "big business deal" while on the other side of the aisle hear about the "big breakup between the lovers". I've already listened to passengers unable to sit together calling each other during the permitted times of phone usage. Cellphone abuse is not limited to the airplane, however; I recall a cellphone ringing in church not long ago during the pastor's prayer. The woman dived into her purse, but instead of turning off the phone, she ducked down low into the pew, answered the phone, conversed for several minutes, competing to be heard over the minister's prayer. People argue over enough things already on the aircraft, seats reclined into other's tray tables, storage for their carry-on luggage, body odors, children crying. Why would you add anything else to the mix?